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Whole Barracks Renewal

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Failure: *Ninety-nine percent of the failures come from people who have a habit of making excuses.* —George Washington Carver, American educator

Improving soldiers' quality of life

Whole Barracks Renewal Phase I

Story by Michelle Cain

Construction of a \$152.2 million, five-year Phase I project of the Army's Whole Barracks Renewal Program in Hawaii has been ongoing at Schofield Barracks since 1996 and will soon be wrapping up this year. It includes construction of soldier community buildings, barracks, a dining facility, Directorate of Public Works (DPW) shop facilities, and road infrastructure upgrades under various contracts.

"It's a pretty sizeable phase," said David Lindsey, HED project manager.

A portion of the Fiscal Year 99 project, contracted to Dick Pacific Construction Company, includes the construction of three battalion headquarters and three company operations buildings.

The project has a scheduled contract completion date of December 2001, however, the battalion headquarters buildings are virtually finished, well ahead of schedule, and will be turned over to the 25th Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade this month.

When asbestos was found in F Quad, that project was moved up from the FY05/06 timeframe to the FY01 contract, said Lynette Oh, DPW master planner. This created a need for "swing," or temporary, space.

"With F Quad having to vacate quickly, they moved into swing space that was designated for someone else and 2nd Brigade was still there," said Oh. "In essence, 2nd Brigade had to move out sooner."

The completion of 2nd Brigade's three battalion headquarters was accelerated in order to allow the units to



These three battalion headquarters buildings, part of the FY99 contract for Phase I of the Whole Barracks Renewal project going on at Schofield Barracks, are nearly completed and the units from 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division will be able to begin moving into them in March. —Photo by Kimberly Jyo.

Advice: *We give advice by the bucket, but take it by the grain.* —William Alger, public speaker

nearly complete at Schofield Barracks

move into their new buildings ahead of schedule. This required the cooperation of everyone involved in the project, said Oh.

A partial turnover will take place, according Lindsey. "Because we wanted to help out the 25th ID and DPW we're going to turn the battalion headquarters over early," he said.

Lindsey gives much of the credit for the early turnover to the Schofield Barracks Resident Office and to the contractor, Dick Pacific.

"I think that all the people involved are working well together," he said. "The resident office has a great deal to do with the success, as does the contractor. He has to keep his people out there working, with no real delays."

"Dick Pacific has been very responsive to our needs," said Kimberly Jyo of the Schofield Barracks Resident Office, the project's quality assurance representative. "They were able to schedule their work in order to complete the three battalion headquarters buildings early in the year, in order to accommodate the needs of DPW."

"The communication has been good; they've kept us informed of work scheduling, problems, and outstanding issues," she said.

Oh said the relationship between the organizations is important in order to produce the desired results.

"They're good contractors," she said. "At the same time, you have that good working relationship between the Corps of Engineers and the contractor; the day to day coordination and communication with the people that are actually out there doing the work."

This is a positive move for the battalions involved.

"Sooner is better than later," said Lt. Col. Michael Coss, commander of the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry, one of the three battalions that will be occupying the new buildings. "We're going to move eventually anyway, so it's good to move and have that new, well-designed battalion headquarters that obviously will be fully modern and have all of the state-of-the-art capabilities for a resource center and battalion classroom, things that we don't have now."

"Geared toward the soldier, it will provide us with a better environment in which to teach classes and hold other meetings that right now we either do out in the quad or in an old abandoned mess hall, which is just not the right environment to foster learning."

Whole Barracks Renewal is an Army-wide program to build new barracks and renovate existing ones using modern design standards that provide a larger living space for single soldiers, thus raising their quality of life and increasing military readiness. Hawaii currently has 38 barracks buildings on Oahu that are part of this program; half were built before 1922. Most of them have open-bay living areas and common latrines.

Under the new design standards only one or two soldiers will occupy a room, living space will increase 30 percent, and each room will have a bathroom and closet space. Separate community buildings will provide storage and laundry facilities and dayrooms.

Coss sees this as a great improvement for his soldiers. "I think it's going to have a tremendous impact," he said. "In the old design they have no privacy. In the new one they have complete privacy and

the ability to arrange their rooms the way they want."

Master Sgt. Larry Chapman, acting Command Sergeant Major of 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry, agrees.

"The new barracks is a focus that the Army has had for many years. It is going to provide for our soldiers, and it also points out that the Army's number one priority is our soldiers and their quality of life."

The individual companies won't move until the company operations facilities are completed, hopefully by the end of the summer, said Coss.

"We're anxious for that to occur so that all of the headquarters are over in the new area, as well as the final barracks getting built for the soldiers. I'd like to get the other half of my battalion out of these old barracks as soon as possible," he said. "Once that's complete we'll be totally ensconced over there and obviously it'll be a better environment for them."

Raising the soldier's quality of life is the main goal of the Whole Barracks Renewal project, and these new barracks help accomplish that, said Oh.

"If the customers are happy in the end, then we have met our goal," she said.



Workers put the final touches on the landscaping of 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division's new battalion headquarters buildings. —Photo by Michelle Cain.